

the Government of India has suggested that future allotments of foodgrains be linked to the receipt of a certificate from the State Governments to the effect that the allotted quantities of foodgrains have been actually distributed to the beneficiaries. The Guidelines issued by the Government of India in regard to the Antyodaya Anna Yojana launched recently provide that the allocation of foodgrains to the States will be linked to the receipt of Utilisation Certificates from them to the effect that the foodgrains have been distributed to the Antyodaya families. In principle the States have agreed to the suggestion and have asked for a lead time of 3 to 4 months for submission of Utilisation Certificates.

The Government of India has advised the State Governments to substantially involve the Gram Panchayats in the supervision and monitoring of the Public Distribution System, especially at the Fair Price Shop level, as a measure of social audit. It is expected that the involvement of Panchayat Raj Institutions in the implementation of the Public Distribution System at the grass root level will make the System transparent and accountable and thereby help in checking the diversion of PDS commodities to a great extent.

Off take of food articles

2918. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether off take of the food articles being distributed through PDS has increased after the revision of PDS prices after this year budget;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the steps taken by Government to enhance the off take; and

(d) the details regarding the off take from 1995-96 to 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) The offtake of foodgrains during the current year 2000-2001 (April, 2000-February, 2001), and during the corresponding period of the last year 1999-2000 (April, 1999-February, 2000) under Targeted Public Distribution (TPDS) is as under:—

*(Fig. in lakh tonnes)
(Provisional)*

Year	Rice		Wheat	
	BPL	APL + Addl.	BPL	APL + Addl.
1999-2000 (upto February)	35.25	65.77	26.24	25.58
2000-2001 (upto February)	53.57	17.07	32.59	2.89

(c) The steps taken by the Government to enhance the offtake of foodgrains from the Central Pool are as follows:—

(i) To ensure increased availability of foodgrains to families Below Poverty Line (BPL), the allocation of foodgrains for BPL families @ 20 Kg. per family per month is being made w.e.f. 1-12-2000 on the basis of projected population as on 1.3.2000 instead of the earlier basis of 1995.

(ii) To give commodity loan of wheat to SAARC countries or any other country who is willing to take loan in consultation with MEA.

- (iii) To have barter trade in wheat with those countries which can supply us commodities in exchange of wheat at prices at which they are importing wheat from other countries in consultation with Ministry of Finance.
- (iv) To make allocation of foodgrains at BPL rates to State Governments @ 5 kg. per head per month for covering categories of indigent people living in welfare institutions such as orphanages, beggar homes, nariniketans etc., sponsored by the State Governments and the concerned administrative Ministry of Government of India.
- (v) Allocation of foodgrains under the Annapurna scheme is being made for indigent old persons even in the case of those receiving old-age pension from the State Governments.
- (vi) Foodgrains to be allocated at CIP applicable for BPL families for all welfare schemes implemented by the Ministries of Government of India.
- (vii) Foodgrains at the rate applicable for BPL families to be allocated to the State Governments for undertaking 'food-for-work' programmes in the State, as also for the Greening India Campaign.
- (viii) Foodgrains to be allocated at BPL rates for development schemes implemented by NGOs where the beneficiaries belong to the BPL category and sponsored by the State Governments as well as administrative Ministry in Government of India, and also run by international organizations like the World Food Programmes.
- (ix) FCI is permitted to offer wheat for export at a price equal to economic cost minus two years' carrying cost but, not less than the CIP for BPL, FCI is also permitted to reduce taxes for economic cost in addition to the carrying cost.

[22 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(d) The details regarding the offtake of rice and wheat from 1995-96 to 2000-2001 (upto February, 2001) are as under:—

(Figures in lakh tonnes)
(Provisional)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Total
1995-96	93.32	51.59	144.91
1996-97	110.14	83.70	193.84
1997-98	97.65	69.38	167.03
1998-99	106.21	78.23	184.44
1999-2000	109.71	55.73	165.44
2000-2001 (upto Feb.)	70.64	35.48	106.12

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

†2919. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the editorial on the announcement made by Government on 'Antyodaya Anna Yojana' for poorest among poor on the 77th birthday of Prime Minister, published on page 6th of the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated 17th January, 2001; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and what facilities Government intend to provide to the public through this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The editorial deals with Antyodaya Anna Yojana launched by Prime Minister on 25.12.2000, besides impact of increase in prices of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.